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might, had the subject permitted, have simplified the task of illustration in words. We must not forget, however, that the eight chapters into which the book is divided are so many separate lectures, and that what may be listened to with intense interest and even delight, is sometimes very dull reading, the personality of the lecturer not being present to convey the proper impression. The reverse also takes place. Thus the sermons of the celebrated Vinet are admirable when read, whereas to listen to them inspired the hearer with but one idea: that of speedy removal from the place where they were delivered.

The subject of these lectures might be called a modern Ethnography of France, and, as such, but indirectly related to geographical problems; but while the treatment is lengthy and tiresome in form to the reader, the substance is rich in thought, knowledge, and accurate observation. The author is fair, just, and mild in his appreciations, conciliatory in his views, and he has well grasped the influence of historic development upon ideas and events.

While we have to wish the reader considerable patience in studying the work, we do so with the conviction that the patience will be richly rewarded.

A. F. B.

Au vieux pays de France, Excursions de Vacances dans le bassin de la Loire, Touraine, Anjou, Berry, Sologne, Vendée et Bretagne. Par Louis Rousselet. 320 pp., 137 gravures. Librairie Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1906.

Upon a superficial glance through this book one might be tempted to recall the picture of a band of tourists running at full speed the gauntlet of European art-galleries. But first impressions are often misleading, and this would be the case in the present instance. Under the pretext (so to say) of rendering account of a swift bicyclistic journey through a part of central France, the author conveys a wealth of information on the topography, archæology and history of that region, of the highest interest and importance to the serious reader. What creates the impression of haste in description arises from the logical terseness and precision which enable a writer so thoroughly master of his native tongue as Mr. Rousselet to condense in a few paragraphs more than an ordinary pamphlet could express. Hence, the purely topographical part is in excess of the far more fascinating descriptions of architectural remains and historical events. Like the landscape through which the author and his companions pass, which, though devoid of mountain scenery, is agreeably broken by the constant view of towering castles, stately manors, ruined monasteries and lofty churches, so the inevitable monotony of description of the country and thoroughfares is charmingly varied at intervals by that of the venerable monuments of bygone days.

While the country thus encompassed is justly named by the author the "Valley of the Loire," it is subdivided into four regions: the valley from Blois to the coast near Nantes; the plateaux of the Sologne; the Berry and the valley of the Indre; the country from Tours to Vierzon in the valley of the Cher,—the valley of the Loire as far as Beauce; embracing, that is to say, Touraine, Anjou and even parts of the Vendée, or "Old" France.

The observations of Mr. Rousselet also extend to the commerce and industry of the country. There are no dreary statistics, but pictures of the agriculture and the horticulture are pleasingly varied with description of the few industries. The lake of Grand-Lieu, alternately changed from a fertile field into a basin abounding with fish, and back again, arrests attention, and the great slate quarries west

of Angers are well described. An industry now gradually waning is the quarrying and shaping of flint; and Mr. Rousselet tells of the distribution of timber throughout the region, its destruction in former times, and its re-planting after the great commotions of the Revolution.

It is stated that one twentieth part, or about a million and a half, of the present population of France, live in cave-dwellings. There are extensive groups of troglodytic habitations. While those in and around Bourré (Department of Loir et Cher) are probably the most important of these abodes, they are also found in actual occupation in other parts of France. Dwellings, stables, store-rooms, halls, chapels, offices, arranged and furnished in more or less modern style, have been carved out of the rock. To Bourré the author devotes particular attention. It is a large subterranean settlement, in an enormous pile of white limestone, the inhabitants of which during the milder season cultivate their vineyards outside and, when the weather becomes severe, work in the huge quarries adjacent to their homes. Another subterranean industry is also carried on by these people, the raising of mushrooms in abandoned galleries of the vast quarries. Not all of these cave-dwellings are exclusively artificial. Nature had already prepared shelter for man long before his earliest appearance and in such primitive recesses human and animal remains and artifacts of the rudest type have been found, showing that the occupation of at least a part of the caverns of Bourré has been continuous, probably, throughout all the known stages of human development.

Thus the valley of the Loire (taking it always in its widest sense) offers to the tourist and student all specimens representing the abodes of man in France from the earliest times to the present day. There are Celtic and Roman vestiges, dungeons and castles of Merovingian, Carolingian and later types. The architecture of the Plantagenet period is represented on every side, and after the castle, under the influence of the Renaissance, partook more and more of the character of a palace, there arose magnificent specimens of architecture like Chaumont, Chambord, Chenonceaux, and others. The history of these monuments, of the numberless attractive churches and of the quaint settlements around them, throws a flood of interesting lore over the country in which every epoch of the vicissitudes of France is richly represented. Mr. Rousselet introduces us to all this in a characteristically clear and concise manner and with thoroughly trustworthy historic knowledge.

The abundant illustrations from photographs are in strict keeping with the excellent character of the text.

A. F. B.

The Ohio River. A Course of Empire. By Archer Butler Hulbert.

xiv and 378 pp., Maps, Illustrations, and Index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1906. (Price, \$1.75.)

This handsome book, admirably produced by its publishers, with large type and many illustrations, shows the part that the Ohio River has played in history. It tells a fascinating story whose interest is, if anything, enhanced by the way of telling it. Perhaps the author did not especially aim at such a result, but his book, on the whole, is a study of the interrelations between a great geographical feature and man. The Ohio opened the marvellous conquest of the West, for it was, as the author says, the highway beyond the Appalachians that led thousands of pioneers to the West long before the Great Lakes became an emigration route.

The author divides the history of the river in its human relations into four ages: (1) the Canoe Age, when the pioneers paddled back and forth on the main